Graph Paper Pets

Make adorable graph paper animals and then calculate their areas.

Kit contains:

- 2 sheets of graph paper

You will need: a pencil, scissors, and coloring supplies (optional).

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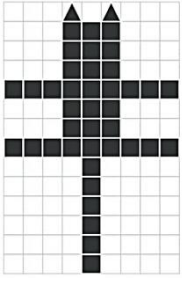
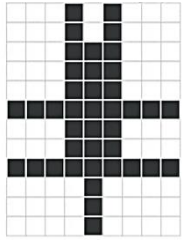
INSTRUCTIONS

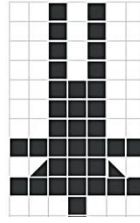
Step 1. Outline the animals you like onto the graph paper. Below are templates for making a cat, a dog, a bunny, and a beaver.



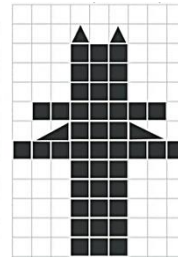
cat



dog

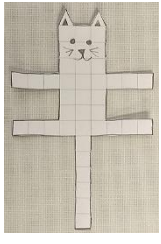


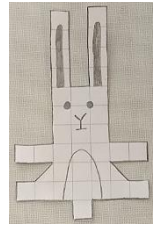
bunny



beaver

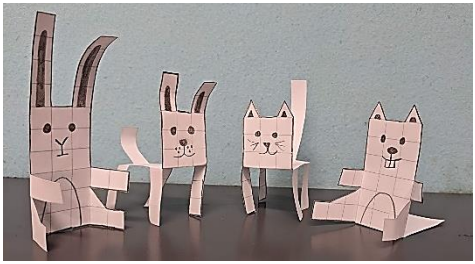
Step 2. Cut out your graph paper pets. Give them faces and color them however you like.





Source: krokotak.com/2013/03/block-paper-animals/

Step 3. Fold your flat animals into shape! The cat and dog stand on four feet. The bunny and beaver sit up.



LET'S TALK AREA!

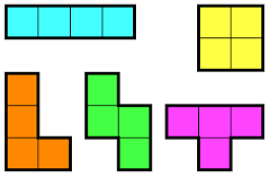
In mathematics, **area** is the amount of space taken up by a flat shape. We measure area in **square units**. Literally, this is the number of squares that fit in the shape!

1 SQUARE UNIT

A book's area might be measured in square inches. A country's area might be measured in square miles. Just plain squares, like the ones on graph paper, are super useful for learning math.

CALCULATING AREA

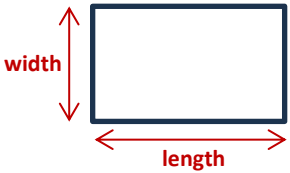
One way to calculate the area of a shape on graph paper is to count the number of squares that fit into it. For instance, these shapes all have areas of 4 square units.



Counting squares is harder when you have shapes like triangles that don't fill up whole boxes. Luckily, there are formulas to help us calculate the areas of different shapes. Rectangles and triangles are a good place to start!

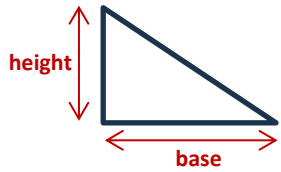
Rectangle

Area = length × width



Triangle

Area = ½ × base × height



Can you calculate the areas, in square units, of your graph paper pets? Count the squares or split them into triangles and rectangles to calculate.